

DEPARTMENT OF STATE**Bureau of Oceans, International Environmental and Scientific Affairs**

[Public Notice No. 3475]

Public Meeting To Discuss Preparations for Negotiations on an International Agreement Through the United Nations Environment Program on Persistent Organic Pollutants

SUMMARY: The United States Government, through an interagency working group chaired by the U.S. Department of State, is preparing for the fifth and final negotiations through the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) on a global agreement to address the release of certain persistent organic pollutants (POPs). The final negotiating session is scheduled to take place in Johannesburg, South Africa, on December 4–9, 2000. The Department of State will host a public meeting for environmental non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in advance of this session to outline issues likely to arise in the context of the negotiations. The public meeting will take place on Tuesday, November 21, 2000, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Room 7835 of the U.S. Department of State, 2201 C Street NW, Washington, DC. To expedite their entrance into the building, attendees should provide to Eunice Mourning of the Office of Environmental Policy, U.S. Department of State (tel. 202–647–9266, fax 202–647–5947) their name, organization, date of birth and Social Security number by noon on Monday, November 20, 2000. Attendees should enter the C Street entrance and bring picture identification with them. For further information, please contact Dr. Marie Ricciardone, U.S. Department of State, Office of Environmental Policy (OES/ENV), Room 4325, 2201 C Street NW, Washington DC 20520. Phone 202–736–4660, fax 202–647–5947, e-mail RicciardoneMD@state.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**The UNEP POPs Negotiations**

The POPs treaty is the first global treaty to address in a comprehensive manner the risks to human health and the environment of chemicals and other pollutants. The treaty will in the first instance deal with twelve substances: aldrin, endrin, hexachlorobenzene, toxaphene, chlordane, dieldrin, heptachlor, mirex, DDT, PCBs, dioxins and furans. These substances fall into three categories: Pesticides, industrial chemicals, and unintended by-products of combustion and industrial processes.

These global negotiations are an ambitious undertaking, since they encompass a broad range of measures to address POPs of transboundary concern. These range from controls on production and use for commercial chemicals, controls on POPs wastes, and controls on by-products that come from combustion and industrial processes. For many countries, this will be the first time that these substances have been controlled, and the effects are likely to be far-reaching.

Since the U.S. and other developed countries have already taken actions on these chemicals, a major goal for the agreement is broad participation by developing countries and, consequently, meaningful reductions in the amount of pollutants that are released into the environment. A critical part of the agreement will be technical and financial assistance mechanisms to help developing countries effectively implement their obligations.

Timetable and Point of Contact

The POPs Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) expects to complete its work at its fifth session in Johannesburg. In preparation for the fifth session of the INC, the State Department is preparing its position for the negotiation, and has scheduled a public meeting to be held on Tuesday, November 21, 2000 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Room 7835 of the U.S. Department of State. Members of the interagency working group who will participate in the proposed negotiation will provide an overview of U.S. preparations for the fifth session. The U.S. Department of State is issuing this notice to help ensure that interested and potentially affected parties are aware of and knowledgeable about these negotiations, and have an opportunity to offer comments. Those organizations or individuals which cannot attend the meeting, but wish to either submit a written comment or to remain informed, should provide Eunice Mourning of the Office of Environmental Policy, U.S. Department of State (phone 202–647–9266; fax 202–647–5947) with their statement and/or their name, organization, address, telephone and fax numbers, and their e-mail address.

Dated: November 14, 2000.

Bob Ford,

Deputy Director, Office of Environmental Policy, U.S. Department of State.

[FR Doc. 00–29519 Filed 11–16–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710–06–P**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE**

[Docket No. WTO/DS–176]

WTO Dispute Settlement Proceeding Regarding United States of America—Section 211 of the Department of Commerce Appropriations Act, 1999

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Office of the United States Trade Representative (“USTR”) is providing notice of the establishment and composition of a dispute settlement panel under the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization (“WTO”) requested by the European Communities and their Member States (the “EC”). The EC has asked that the panel examine whether section 211 of the “Omnibus Appropriations Act of 1998” [sic] is consistent with U.S. obligations under the WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (“TRIPs Agreement”). The statutory provision to which the EC refers is section 211 of the Department of Commerce Appropriations Act, 1999, as included in Pub. L. 105–277 (“Section 211”). Section 211 concerns the registration or enforcement, by Cuban entities or their successors in interest, of trademarks, trade-names, or commercial names that are substantially similar to trademarks, trade-names, or commercial names associated with businesses confiscated without compensation by the Cuban government, without the consent of the previous owners of the trademarks, trade-names or commercial names.

DATES: Although USTR will accept any comments received during the course of the dispute settlement proceedings, comments should be submitted by November 28, 2000, to be assured of timely consideration by USTR.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be submitted to Sandy McKinzy, Litigation Assistant, Office of Monitoring and Enforcement, Room 122, Att: Section 211, Office of the United States Trade Representative, 600 17th Street, NW., Washington, D.C., 20508.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: L. Daniel Mullaney, Associate General Counsel, at (202) 395–3581.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to section 127(b) of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (URAA) (19 U.S.C. 3537(b)(1)), USTR is providing notice that, on October 26, 2000, the WTO Director-General appointed the following persons to serve as panelists

in this dispute: H.E. Mr. Wade Armstrong, Chairman; Mr. François Dessemontet, Member; and Mr. Armand de Mestral, Member. This appointment was made pursuant to Article 8.7 of the WTO Dispute Settlement Understanding. Under normal circumstances, the panel, which will hold its meetings in Geneva, Switzerland, is expected to issue a report detailing its findings and recommendations within six to nine months after it is established. USTR solicited comments from the public on the issues in this dispute in a **Federal Register** notice dated August 1, 2000 (65 FR 46999); those comments are on file at USTR and need not be resubmitted in response to this notice.

Major Issues Raised and Legal Basis of the Complaint

In its request for the establishment of a panel, the EC alleges that three substantive provisions of section 211 are inconsistent with the TRIPs Agreement:

1. The EC alleges that Section 211(a)(1) limits the right to register or renew trademarks, trade-names or commercial names at the United States Patent and Trademark Office, in violation of TRIPs Article 2.1, in conjunction with Article 6 quinquies A(1) of the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property (1967) ("Paris Convention"), and TRIPs Article 15.1. The EC alleges that Section 211(a)(1) does this by, in the case of trademarks, trade-names and commercial names that are substantially similar to trademarks, trade-names, or commercial names associated with businesses confiscated without compensation by the Cuban government, requiring the consent of the original owner or his successor-in-interest of the trademark, trade-name, or commercial name.

2. The EC alleges that Section 211(a)(2)—by providing that U.S. courts shall not recognize, enforce, or otherwise validate common law or registration rights asserted by designated nationals or their successors in interest in trademarks, trade-names and commercial names that are substantially similar to trademarks, trade-names, or commercial names associated with businesses confiscated without compensation by the Cuban government—violates TRIPs Art. 2.1, in conjunction with Articles 6 bis (1) and 8 of the Paris Convention, and TRIPs Article 16.1 (which require WTO Members to provide protection for well-known trademarks and for trade names). The EC also alleges that Section 211(a)(2) violates the TRIPs enforcement provisions, such as TRIPs Article 42,

and the most favored nation and national treatment provisions of the TRIPs Agreement (TRIPs Articles 3.1, 2.1 (in conjunction with Article 2(1) of the Paris Convention), and 4).

3. Finally, the EC alleges that Section 211(b)—by providing that U.S. courts shall not recognize, enforce, or otherwise validate treaty rights asserted by designated nations or their successors in interest in trademarks, trade-names and commercial names that are substantially similar to trademarks, trade-names, or commercial names associated with businesses confiscated without compensation by the Cuban government (unless the original owner consents)—violates TRIPs Art. 2.1, in conjunction with Articles 6 bis (1) and 8 of the Paris Convention (requiring protection of well-known trademarks and of trade-names) and TRIPs Articles 3.1, 4, 16.1, and 42 (provisions concerning most favored nation treatment, national treatment, trademark rights conferred, and fair and equitable enforcement procedures).

Public Comment: Requirements for Submissions

Interested persons are invited to submit written comments concerning the issues raised in this dispute or other matters related to this dispute. Comments must be in English and provided in fifteen copies to Sandy McKinzy at the address provided above. A person requesting that information contained in a comment submitted by that person be treated as confidential business information must certify that such information is business confidential and would not customarily be released to the public by the submitting person. Confidential business information must be clearly marked "BUSINESS CONFIDENTIAL" in a contrasting color ink at the top of each page of each copy.

Information or advice contained in a comment submitted, other than business confidential information, may be determined by USTR to be confidential in accordance with section 135(g)(2) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2155(g)(2)). If the submitting person believes that information or advice may qualify as such, the submitting person—

(1) Must so designate the information or advice;

(2) Must clearly mark the material as "SUBMITTED IN CONFIDENCE" in a contrasting color ink at the top of each page of each copy; and

(3) Is encouraged to provide a non-confidential summary of the information or advice.

Pursuant to section 127(e) of the URAA (19 U.S.C. 3537(e)), USTR will

maintain a file on this dispute settlement proceeding, accessible to the public, in the USTR Reading Room: Room 101, Office of the United States Trade Representative, 600 17th Street, NW., Washington, D.C. 20508. The public file will include a listing of any comments received by USTR from the public with respect to the proceeding, the U.S. submissions to the panel in the proceeding, the submissions, or non-confidential summaries of submissions, to the panel received from other parties in the dispute, as well as the report of the dispute settlement panel, and, if applicable, the report of the Appellate Body. An appointment to review the public file (Docket WTO/DS-176, "Section 211") may be made by calling Brenda Webb, (202) 395-6186. The Reading Room is open to the public from 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

A. Jane Bradley,

Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Monitoring and Enforcement.

[FR Doc. 00-29482 Filed 11-16-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Coast Guard

[USCG 2000-8252]

Collection of Information Under Review by Office of Management and Budget (OMB): OMB Control Numbers 2115-0012 and 2115-0518

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DOT.

ACTION: Request for comments.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Coast Guard intends to seek the approval of OMB for the renewal of two Information Collection Requests (ICRs). The ICRs comprise (1) U.S. Coast Guard Academy—Preliminary Application and Supplemental Forms and (2) International Oil Pollution Prevention Certificate. Before submitting the ICRs to OMB, the Coast Guard is requesting comments on the items described below.

DATES: Comments must reach the Coast Guard on or before January 16, 2001.

ADDRESSES: You may mail comments to the Docket Management System (DMS) [USCG 2000-8252], U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001, or deliver them to room PL-401, located on the Plaza Level of the Nassif Building at the same address between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday